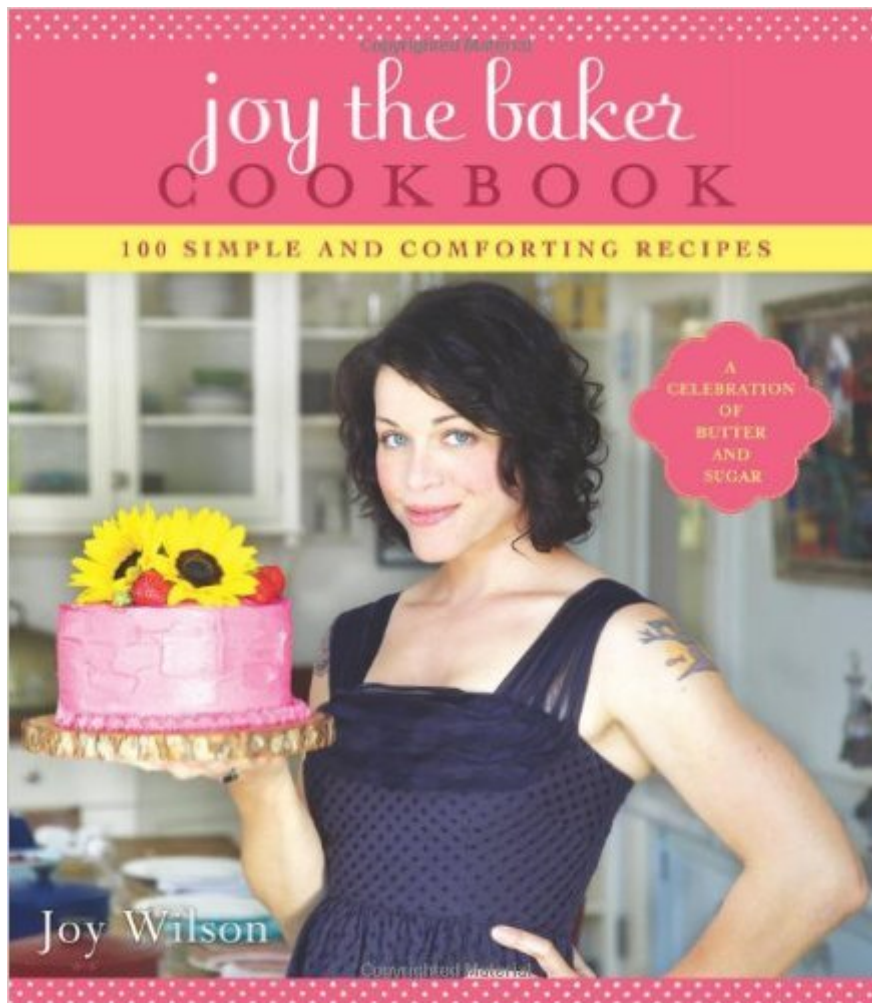


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Joy The Baker Cookbook: 100 Simple And Comforting Recipes



Synopsis

Joy the Baker Cookbook includes everything from "Man Bait" Apple Crisp to Single Lady Pancakes to Peanut Butter Birthday Cake. Joy's philosophy is that everyone loves dessert; most people are just looking for an excuse to eat cake for breakfast.

Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Hachette Books; 1/29/12 edition (February 28, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1401310605

ISBN-13: 978-1401310608

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (145 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #104,131 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Main Courses & Side Dishes > Brunch & Tea](#) #286 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Desserts](#) #376 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Baking](#)

Customer Reviews

This book is filled with both anecdotal and culinary gems. It begins with a brief chapter entitled "joy the baker kitchen tips" which discusses common, but crucial, myths and missteps frequently encountered in baking. For example, why you should care whether you are using jumbo vs large eggs and how the difference can translate to perfect vs dense cake batter. The subsequent chapters center on breakfast foods (smoothies, biscuits, coffee bacon...), comfort foods (milkshakes, chili cheese fries, cookies...), celebration foods (pies, cakes, a variety of frostings...), chocolate foods (mint chip marshmallows, fudgepops, biscotti...), & dessert foods that travel well (crostadas and other impressive but easy-to-make goods). My first tested recipe was actually the first recipe in the book- scones. I always knew tiny bits of cold butter was important... but from this recipe I learned a crucial trick: to freeze butter and shred it into tiny pieces with a box grater. This is the secret to a perfect scone and I was almost terrified by the difference in height achieved by this trick alone. It's such a good trick, that I almost feel like this is the kind of secret you share with very few people. PRO: Pictures to accompany EVERY recipe. I think pictures are crucial and am surprised whenever I see cookbooks without ANY pictures. I generally flip through cookbooks to find something by eye, and I think a lot of people do this too. I like the single serving cake. I don't have to

waste 4 cups of flour and go through a huge production to have a small portion of cake. CON: Joy tends to have a set of photos that demonstrate the making-of, which I always find helpful. Although they are not in this book, you can find them when you look for recipes (which are organized by booze, bread, breakfast, chocolate, cookies, cupcakes, drinks, fruit, gluten-free, holiday, pie, savory, snacks, vegan) on joythebaker.com This book boasts 100 new recipes (~90% not seen on joythebaker.com) and is priced very very low for what you gain.

PROS: Many basic recipes for basic stuff, but with a little twist and a beautiful photo, makes you feel like making it. The recipes are for basic pancakes, muffins, pudding, pie, cookies, ice cream, popcorn, smoothies, cake, frosting, chocolate sauce, etc. and are either straightforward (nothing new added), or they offer up one or two different ingredients in them, like browned butter or vanilla bean. This is a great book for a beginner or someone who just enjoys a new little idea here and there, and fun photos. There are some tips up front but again, basic, yet for people who didn't know these tips, they can make all the difference. Every recipe gets one page for the recipe and one page for the photo. Easy to take into the kitchen. Nice! She absolutely does not go on and on about getting a boyfriend - she talks about her family, but most of all she talks about the forthcoming recipe. And there are NOT tons of avocado recipes like one reviewer said. psh! CONS: I made the Dark Chocolate and Anise Biscotti (photo in the photo area top left). Turned out great but the shaping directions left me a little flustered (only 2 dimensions were mentioned when there are 3 dimensions to an object, and it just didn't look right), although it all worked out. Another example of confusion is that I wanted to make the Araby Spice cake (sounds interesting) but the recipe calls for a 9" round cake pan yet the photo of it is a cake with a hole in the middle (remember My Big Fat Greek Wedding?), yet it didn't look like a Bundt Cake - it was too shallow. Made me wonder how the cake would turn out in a regular round cake pan. But even more so, I wondered why it wasn't photographed in the recommended form? Did it not look as pretty? Probably. Another area of confusion was the title Dark Chocolate Biscotti, yet the recipe ingredients calls for semi-sweet. A Google search taught me that semi-sweet is a form of dark chocolate, but hey, most people don't know that. Why not just say chocolate and not confuse people? It sounds like I'm being picky, but those were my first three recipes I looked at. And I don't want to have to wonder and do internet searches to feel confident in getting started on a project. Some of the recipes out of the 100 are BASIC STRAIGHT UP BAKED GOODS: Texas Sheet Cake, Hot Fudge Sauce, Hot Chocolate, Buttercream Frosting, Apple Crisp, Cheddar Chive Biscuits with Jalapeno, Cinnamon Rolls with Buttermilk Glaze, Chocolate Peanut Butter Whoopie Pies, Granola Bars, Pecan Pralines, Banana

Bourbon Bread Pudding, Gingerbread, Caramel Corn, Trail Mix Cookies, Individual Molten Chocolate Cake, etc etc. Some of the recipes out of the 100 are BASIC, BUT WITH A SLIGHT SPIN: Chocolate Chip Banana Bread (add Bourbon), Lemon Bars (add lavender), cream cheese frosting (add cocoa powder to make chocolate), malted milkshake (add pineapple), ice cream pie (add coffee), Banana Cake (add rum), Chocolate Pudding (add crushed cookies with whipped topping), Banana Cream Pie (add toasted coconut), Black and White Cookies (make the cookies Pumpkin instead of plain), Pancakes (add oatmeal & raisin), Chocolate Bread Pudding (add malt powder), Caramel Sauce (add salt), Banana Blueberry Smoothie (add toasted oats), Fudge Pops (add chocolate chunks & fresh raspberries), Snickerdoodles (add vanilla bean), Roasted Cashews (toss them with honey & dried mustard first), Rice Krispie Treats (add browned butter & peanut butter). Some of the recipes are FROM JOY'S WONDERFUL BLOG, but with a slight change: Peanut Butter Bacon Cookies (same as on blog but adds more sugar and chopped peanuts), Dutch Baby Pancake (make it tropical with toasted coconut, banana & pineapple), Pie Crust (push it in the pan with your hands instead of rolling). Probably more but I don't want to take the time to compare recipe by recipe. Every single recipe is one page recipe and one page photo, so for Hot Chocolate, you get a big photo of Hot Chocolate and a whole page of a 4-ingredient recipe. I think this would make a great gift for someone who is 30ish and younger and/or is new to making their own treats and/or wants to support young, hard-working entrepreneurs and/or loves new cookbooks with good photography. FOLLOW UP 1 YEAR LATER: I was wondering why a couple people thought my EXTENSIVE review was "Not Helpful". So I re-read my review and realized that I actually only made one recipe, and it did turn out fine, but only after googling other biscotti recipes to see what the shaped log is supposed to look like. Plus I've read others' reviews by now who were honest about recipes that didn't work out. So in summary, I think this is one of those cookbooks in which some recipes will work for you and some won't. And some people will be able to figure out the inconsistencies, and others won't. Some will be pi**ed off about a recipe that didn't work out or was difficult to make work, and others won't. Personalities and expectations vary.

I have been a BIG fan of Joy for about a year now via her terrific blog. Her recipes are stunning and her writing is colloquially elegant. Joy has a way of making you feel like her truest friend. Her heartfelt blog has made its way into my daily routine and my heart and tummy are better off because of it. This book is designed very well and is easy to read. It is organized into clear sections and features beautiful full page pictures. There are MANY new recipes in this book that are not from her blog. Each recipe has a little note from Joy at the top, but it otherwise feels like a professional

cookbook. The "kitchen tips" type section at the beginning was wonderful! I'm excited to try some of them... AND all the other recipes in the book. I love that Joy features so many 'basics with a twist' while also branching out. I would say that this cookbook is perfect for the average cook who is willing to experiment a little and try something new. ONLY con is that it is mostly a "sweets" book... I would have like to see a tad more variety... But hey it is a "celebration of butter and sugar"! It does have a great healthy cracker recipe, two smoothie recipes and a few others. Just tried my first recipe from the book... coffee cake... and it is SMELLING UP MY DARN HOUSE with the most beautiful aroma! It is taking all the patience I have to wait for it to cook all the way :) Anna

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